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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 3321

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: TIME AND PLACE OF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS

REF: ROME 3221 AV 4 IT-US

1. ECONMIN MADE COURTESY CALL ON AMB CAPOMAZZA DEC 20, HOPING TO OBTAIN CONFIRMATION OF PLAN TO HOLD PRELIMINARY TALKS JANUARY 12-14 IN ROME AND FIRST MAJOR ROUND WASHINGTON FEW WEEKS LATER.

2. CAPOMAZZA WAS GLAD TO SCHEDULE PRELIMINARY TALKS LATER THAN JANUARY 9 AND IN FACT PREFERRED HAVE THEM START JANUARY 16. WE EXPLAINED PROBABLE INCONVENIENCE OF JANUARY 16 FOR LOY. CAPOMAZZA'S MAJOR POINT HOWEVER WAS THAT IT WOULD BE EXCEEDINGLY HELPFUL TO HIM IF PRELIMINARY TALKS COULD BE CONSIDERED PART OF FIRST ROUND AND BOTH PARTS BE HELD IN ROME IN CLOSE SUCCESSION.

3. WE REPLIED ON BASIS STATE 92726 THAT WASHINGTON WOULD INSIST ON ALTERNATING TALKS BETWEEN TWO CAPITALS, ADDING THAT IF IT WERE IMPORTANT TO ITALIANS TO HAVE FIRST MAJOR ROUND IN ROME US SIDE MIGHT BE WILLING TO HOLD PRELIMINARY TALKS IN WASHINGTON STARTING JANUARY 16 AND MEET LATER IN ROME FOR FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS.

4. DURING SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION IT DEVELOPED THAT SANTINI HAS OBJECTED VERY STRONGLY TO GOING TO WASHINGTON, RECALLING WITH RANCOR THE "INTOLERABLE TREATMENT" HE RECEIVED THERE IN NOVEMBER 1964. WHILE CAPOMAZZA AGREED WITH US THAT ALTERNATION BETWEEN CAPITALS WAS PROPER AND NECESSARY, AND ASSURED US THAT HE WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO GO TO WASHINGTON AND TO BE KEPT THERE LONG TIME, HE HOPED THAT PRELIMINARY TALKS AND FIRST ROUND

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BE CONSIDERED AS COMPOSING ONE UNIT. HE INDICATED THAT IT WOULD HELP HIM GREATLY IN HIS TASK OF HANDLING SANTINI IF USG COULD ACCOMMODATE GOI IN THIS PROCEDURAL MATTER.

5. COMMENT: WHILE WE FULLY UNDERSTAND AND CONCUR IN DEPARTMENT'S DESIRE TO ALTERNATE PRELIMINARY AND FIRST ROUND LOCATIONS, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT IN LONG RUN IT WOULD PROVE GOOD US TACTICS TO GO ALONG WITH CAPOMAZZA'S REQUEST (IF THIS COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT GREATER SACRIFICE THAN INCONVENIENCE AND

MODERATE INCREASE IN TRAVEL COSTS). SANTINI, THANKS TO HIS MILITARY RECORD AND CONNECTIONS AND DESPITE HIS COMBATIVE AND STUBBORN CHARACTER, HAS SOME REAL INFLUENCE IN GOI. HE IS MAKING AND WILL DOUBTLESS CONTINUE TO MAKE SERIOUS DIFFICULTY FOR CAPOMAZZA. LATER ON, WHEN IT COMES TO SUBSTANTIVE POINTS OF IMPORTANCE, CAPOMAZZA WILL NEED TO OBTAIN THE SUPPORT OF ALITALIA AND IELIAN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IN ORDER TO OVERRULE SANTINI, AND AT THAT STAGE IT MIGHT IMPROVE HIS CHANCES OF SUCCESS IF HE WERE ABLE TO SHOW THAT HE HAD PREVIOUSLY GONE TO ALL PERMISSIBLE LENGTHS TO ACCOMMODATE UNREASONABLE DEMANDS ON SANTINI'S PART.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: CHOICE FOR USG IS THEREFORE: (A) TO INSIST ON HAVING PRELIMINARY TALKS IN ONE CAPITAL AND FIRST ROUND OF FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS IN THE OTHER, OR (B) TO AGREE TO REGARD PRELIMINARY TALKS AS PART OF FIRST NEGOTIATING ROUND AND HOLD BOTH IN ROME AS URGED BY CAPOMAZZA. IN SECOND CASE, PERHAPS LOY MIGHT COME TO ROME ALONE AFTER PARIS OECD MEETING, RETURN TO WASHINGTON LONG ENOUGH TO FINISH INTERNAL CONSULTATIONS, AND THEN BRING US DELEGATION HERE LATE JANUARY. PLEASE TELEPHONE OR CABLE DECISION SOONEST.

EXEMPT. REINHARDT

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